

PHILLIP LINDSAY'S
CONSISTENCY HAS
LED TO CU RECORDS
»1B



COLORADO'S SEASON OF
LIGHTS BEGINS FRIDAY »1C

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE DENVER POST

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WARM, SOME SUN ▲68° ▼34° »24A • © THE DENVER POST • \$2 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER



A DAY FOR GIVING THANKS



Ron Dumont pauses for a moment before enjoying his Thanksgiving Day feast inside Exhibit Hall B at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. Thursday's feast was sponsored by The Salvation Army as it continued its annual tradition of hosting Denver's Community Thanksgiving Meal. More than 150 volunteers helped serve over 7,000 pounds of food. All of the food was donated by King Soopers and City Market. The meal consisted of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and pies. *Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post* »STORY, 2A

ADDRESSING COLORADO'S PERA

Current, future workers shoulder load

By Brian Eason
The Denver Post

Decades of overpromising and underfunding benefits have dug Colorado's public pension system into a deep financial hole, and a new analysis of competing proposals to fix it shows that younger generations would be left to pick up most of the \$32 billion tab. The latest financial breakdown undercuts public statements made by advocates of each proposal to shore up the Public Employees' Retirement Association and underscores the difficulty of finding an equitable solution for past and future generations of public work-

ers without asking taxpayers for a bailout. Under the proposal endorsed by PERA's board of directors, which manages the retirement benefits of more than 566,000 Coloradans (nearly 10 percent of the state's population), current and future employees would be on the hook for \$17.7 billion in new contributions and reduced benefits — or 55 percent of the pension's unfunded liability today, according to a PERA staff analysis. Taxpayer-funded government agencies would contribute an additional \$9 billion, 28 percent of the reforms, while current retirees would lose \$5.5 billion in benefits, or 17 percent.

Under Gov. John Hickenlooper's plan, the disparity is even larger. Public workers would foot 66 percent of the bill, or \$21.2 billion, while the retiree share would increase to 23 percent. Current employees would actually contribute less of each paycheck than under PERA's proposal — a change Hickenlooper said was needed to retain and recruit quality workers — but they would begin contributing a year sooner. And they pay again later in life. The Democrat's deeper cut to benefits takes money away from current and future retirees alike. Taxpayers would chip in the remaining 11 percent — \$3.5 bil-

lion — under Hickenlooper's plan. The new breakdowns could undermine some of the arguments made on behalf of either plan. PERA's sales pitch — much like a prior round of austerity measures seven years ago — is that "shared sacrifice" is needed from taxpayers, employees and retirees alike. But much like in 2010, that sacrifice won't be shared equally. For the second time, current and future employees would be hit the hardest to atone for past financial mistakes. Meanwhile, Hickenlooper's plan largely succeeds in shielding taxpayers from higher con-

PERA » 6A

BLACK FRIDAY

As shoppers mobilize, retailers branching out

By Anne D'Innocenzio
The Associated Press

Shoppers began hitting the stores on Thanksgiving and found some surprises: toys and TVs at J.C. Penney and Barbies at Best Buy. As the holiday shopping season officially kicked off Thursday, retailers are counting on a lift from a better economy. But

they're also looking beyond economic data and mapping out ways to pick up sales from other retailers as Amazon expands its reach. That can mean opening earlier than rivals on the holidays or even jumping into new product categories. The fight for market share comes as analysts at Bain say Amazon is expected to take

SHOPPING » 19A



People get an early start to their Black Friday by shopping at Macy's department store Thursday night in New York City. *Stephanie Keith, Getty Images*

"REALLY WINNING"

Trump credits troops, self

President comments on military advances against Islamic State

By Jill Colvin
The Associated Press

PALM BEACH, FLA.» President Donald Trump thanked U.S. troops for their service Thursday, assuring them "we're really winning" against America's foes as he celebrated Thanksgiving at his private club in Florida and provided lunch for Coast Guard men and women on duty for the holiday. Using the occasion to pat himself on the back, Trump told deployed military members via a video conference that they've achieved more progress in Afghanistan and against the Islamic State group under his watch than had been made in years of the previous administration. "Everybody's talking about the progress you've made in the last few months since I opened it up," he told the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, whose members are conducting operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan. "We're being talked about again as an armed forces — we're really winning." Speaking from a gilded room at his Mar-a-Lago club, Trump said: "We're not fighting anymore to just walk around, we're fighting to win, and you people are really, you've turned it around over the last three to four months like nobody's seen, and they are talking about it, so thank you very much." Turning to the 74th Expeditionary Fighters Squadron based at the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, Trump suggested the Obama administration hadn't allowed soldiers on the ground to do their jobs.

TRUMP » 17A

DENVER
INK STORE TAGGED AFTER OUTCRY

Someone spray-paints "white coffee" on the Ink Coffee location in Five Points and breaks a window there after the business sparked a controversy by putting up a sandwich board about gentrification. »6A

NATION
FLYNN BREAKS TIES TO TRUMP'S TEAM

Former national security adviser Michael Flynn's lawyer shuts down communications with President Donald Trump's team, a sign he may be cooperating with the special prosecutor's investigation. »21A